

Top Secret

NOON-NOONTRACT

SITUATION REPORT

SOUTH KOREA

The government is taking steps to ensure stability and continuity in the wake of President Pak Chung-hui's death.

Seoul radio yesterday broadcast a lengthy account of the President's death, sourced to the Defense Security Command, which is in charge of investigating the incident. This official account, although described as "preliminary," clearly is designed to dispel rumors of a coup attempt. It charged that Korean Central Intelligence Agency Director Kim Chae-kyu killed both Pak and his bodyguard, Cha Chi-chol, after a heated argument over Kim's performance in the top security post.

In a move possibly designed to demonstrate the government's continuing confidence in the KCIA, an agency deputy director, retired Air Force General Yun Il-kyun, was named to replace Kim yesterday.

The South Korean press is stressing unity in order to avoid any confusion or "social disorder" that might encourage North Korea to move against the South. Government offices are open for regular hours and only a few troops and plain clothesmen were in evidence yesterday. The government party has made public statements calling for cooperation with the martial law forces and warning North Korea.

The opposition New Democratic Party has ordered flags flown at half-mast at all party offices. Party leader Kim Yong-sam, whose expulsion from the National Assembly early this month sparked much of the political tension in South Korea during the past month, issued a

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note of condolence on Pak's death. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The ruling party, in one of the first signs of confusion following Pak's death, has made conflicting statements on the convening of the national legislature. One spokesman has said the assembly will reopen on 1 November as scheduled; another has asserted that the legislative calendar would depend on developments in the domestic political situation. [REDACTED]

The government has moved to reassure other countries. [REDACTED]

North Korean military activity generally has been routine. [REDACTED]

The North Korean press has played the Pak death in a low-key manner. A lengthy commentator article in the party daily yesterday said that the slaying proved the fragility of the political and economic situation in the South, but it noted that Pak's "fascist rule" remains intact. The article, however, did not directly criticize the new martial law government. [REDACTED]

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